

### **REMARKS**

Applicants have carefully considered the Office Action dated June 9, 2004 regarding the above-identified application, and this Response and accompanying Disclaimer are presented in a bona fide effort to address all issues raised in that Action. Claims 10-28 are pending in this case. Claims 10 and 18 are amended, on two minor points which should not narrow the scope of any claim. For reasons discussed below, it is believed that this case is in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable reconsideration is solicited.

All of the pending claims were rejected only for obviousness type double patenting over the commonly assigned US patent no. 6,611,903, which issued from the parent of this continuing application. A Terminal Disclaimer is submitted herewith, to obviate the double patenting rejection over the 6,611,903 patent. As there was no other rejection in the latest Action, all of the claims pending in this application should be in condition for allowance.

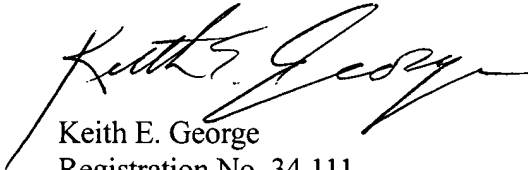
Claims 10, 18 and 22 were objected to, and the Action suggested a change in wording regarding the format conversion "for clarity." This objection is traversed, and Applicants submit that the present wording on the point is reasonably clear, concise and definite, and it is more accurate than the alternate language proposed in the objection. As an example, the last paragraph of claim 1 states that: "data received from at least one of the host computers is converted to a format compatible with transfer to the second storage subsystem." By way of one example, the sentence bridging pages 29 and 30 of the specification indicates that, in the embodiment discussed there, the data is converted "to a data format conforming to the open-system Fibre-Channel-Protocol channel." As such, it is believed that the claim phrase "converted to a format compatible with transfer" is accurate; and the data is not "converted to a format that is compatible with a format ...," as suggested in the Action. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

It is believed that this response addresses all issues raised in the June 9, 2004 Office Action. However, if any further issue should arise that may be addressed in an interview or by an Examiner's amendment, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' representative at the number shown below.

To the extent necessary, if any, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Date: August 27, 2004**